



"Go Tell It" by Mike Moyers.

Christ Church **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Rev. Dan Stark, Pastor
Organist and Pianist, Pam Kothrade
Song Leader, Colleen Lentz
Soloist, Nancy Charles

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December 27th, 2020

Today marks the first Sunday of Christmas and the last Sunday before the year's end. In today's service we light the *Christ* candle. The 126th Psalm says, "When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream..." In the Bible the whole ensemble of characters in the Christmas story were dreamers. They received dreams. They discovered them. They responded to God's dream for the world. Indeed, they invite us to dream with them. God's dreams for us are not alone. In today's scripture, Simeon and Anna could not keep silent. They witnessed Jesus' divinity in action and were compelled to speak up. Like the Prophet Isaiah of old, we will not keep silent and will not rest until what has been sown springs up as righteousness and peace in every nation! Those who dream...*will not keep silent!*

**Please recite the purple words aloud.*

Prelude

The First Noel

arr. Lorie Line

Words of Welcome

Opening Song

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

come and behold him, born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;

glory to God, all glory in the highest

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Opening Litany

One: Here on the heels of Christmas,

All: We speak of love.

One: We speak of joy.

All: We speak of candle light and fireside.

One: We speak of dreams being fulfilled.

All: We speak of "glorias" and angel choruses.

One: We speak the words, "Do not be afraid."

**All: Here on the heels of Christmas,
We are called to speak, for the world needs a light.**

One: A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

All: Let us worship and listen.

Then, let us speak. Amen.

Candle Lighting Song

Lead Us To Your Light

Carol Browning

**Lead us to your light, lead us out of darkness.
Lead us to your light. Come, Jesus, come. (repeat)
Lead us to your light, lead us out of darkness.
Lead us to your light. Come, Jesus, come.**

Opening Prayer

Divine Voice,

In the beginning,

*It was you who spoke over the water and brought forth
creation.*

*And then it was you who asked, "Cain, where is your
brother?"*

It was you who spoke to Elijah in a still, small, voice.

And it was you, through angels,

Who spoke to Mary and Joseph and the shepherds.

You have always been speaking –

In words, in memories, in songs, and in dreams.

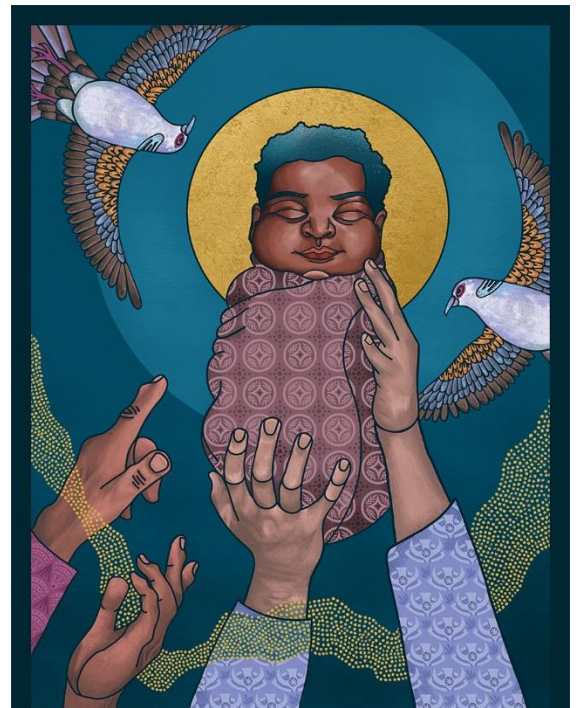
So today, as we prepare to hear your word read aloud,

*We ask that you would speak to us once again – as only
you can –*

So that we might speak this same good news to others.

We are listening. We are grateful.

Amen.



"Center Christ" by Lauren Wright Pittman.

The Gloria

**Glory be to the Christ-Child,
God's strength made weak, has come to light our way.
As the Firstborn of Creation, the Alpha and Omega, wonderful birth,
God has come to earth.**

Lyrics. Jacqueline A. Burnette

Solo

Heirlooms

Amy Grant

Performed by Nancy Charles

Old Testament

[Isaiah 61:10-62:3 \(ICB\)](#)

Isaiah is the longest and arguably the most important of the prophetic books. It covers Israel's history before, during, and after the exile. Isaiah offers the full range of God's prophetic message – from words of judgment to words of promise. Isaiah portrays God as a mighty creator and the gentlest comforter. Isaiah is quoted more in the New Testament than any other prophet in the Hebrew Scriptures.

The Lord makes me very happy.

All that I am rejoices in my God.

The Lord has covered me with clothes of salvation.

He has covered me with a coat of goodness.

I am like a bridegroom dressed for his wedding.

I am like a bride dressed in jewels.

¹¹ *The earth causes plants to grow.*

And a garden causes the seeds planted there to grow.

In the same way the Lord God will make grow what is right.

He will make praise come from all the nations.

Because I love Jerusalem, I will continue to speak for her.

For Jerusalem's sake I will not stop speaking.

I will speak until her goodness shines like a bright light.

I will speak until her salvation burns bright like a flame.

² *Jerusalem, the nations will see your goodness.*

All kings will see your honor.

Then you will have a new name.

The Lord himself will give you that new name.

³ *You will be like a beautiful crown in the Lord's hand.*

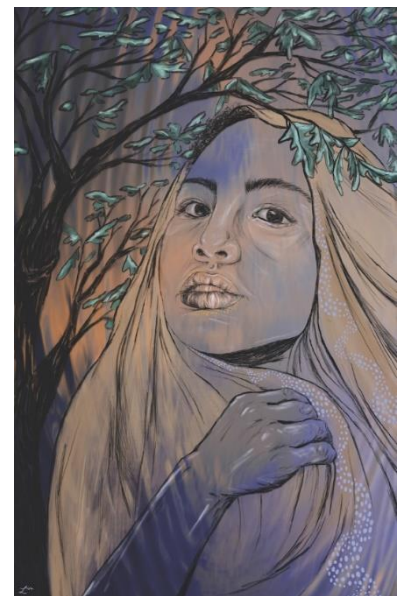
You will be like a king's crown in your God's hand.

New Testament [Luke 2:22-40 \(ICB\)](#)

In today's Gospel lesson, Jesus is presented in the Temple. Simeon, a man who was aging and hard of sight is able to literally see God's salvation in the baby Christ. Anna, an aging prophetess, bears witness to the divinity of the baby Jesus.

²² *The time came for Mary and Joseph to do what the law of Moses taught about being made pure. They took Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.* ²³ *It is written in the law of the Lord: "Give every firstborn male to the Lord."* ²⁴ *Mary and Joseph also went to offer a sacrifice, as the law of the Lord says: "You must sacrifice two doves or two young pigeons."*

²⁵ *A man named Simeon lived in Jerusalem. He was a good man and very religious.*



"Can't Keep Silent" by Lisle Gwynn Garrity.

He was waiting for the time when God would help Israel. The Holy Spirit was in him. ²⁶ The Holy Spirit told Simeon that he would not die before he saw the Christ promised by the Lord. ²⁷ The Spirit led Simeon to the Temple. Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the Temple to do what the law said they must do. ²⁸ Then Simeon took the baby in his arms and thanked God:

²⁹ "Now, Lord, you can let me, your servant, die in peace as you said.

³⁰ I have seen your Salvation with my own eyes.

³¹ You prepared him before all people.

³² He is a light for the non-Jewish people to see.

He will bring honor to your people, the Israelites."

³³ Jesus' father and mother were amazed at what Simeon had said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, "Many in Israel will fall and many will rise because of this child. He will be a sign from God that many people will not accept. ³⁵ The things they think in secret will be made known. And the things that will happen will make your heart sad, too."

³⁶ Anna, a prophetess, was there at the Temple. She was from the family of Phanuel in the tribe of Asher. Anna was very old. She had once been married for seven years. ³⁷ Then her husband died and she lived alone. She was now 84 years old. Anna never left the Temple. She worshiped God by going without food and praying day and night. ³⁸ She was standing there at that time, thanking God. She talked about Jesus to all who were waiting for God to free Jerusalem.

³⁹ Joseph and Mary finished doing everything that the law of the Lord commanded. Then they went home to Nazareth, their own town in Galilee. ⁴⁰ The little child began to grow up. He became stronger and wiser, and God's blessings were with him.

Poem

Swell

Sarah Are

You know that feeling when you fall in
love?
Time-stands-still and moves too fast.
You'd give up sleep just to talk all night,
Because there's so much to say and not
enough time.
It's that full to the brim,
Over the stars,
Living is dreaming,
Too-good-to-be-true
Kind of feeling?
I imagine that's how Simeon and Anna
felt
When they saw Jesus that day.
I imagine it was that full to the brim,

Over the stars,
Living is dreaming,
Too-good-to-be-true
Good news kind of feeling.
I imagine it was love.
And I imagine that that good, good
news
Swelled to the tip of their tongues
Until they could not keep silent.
So may we know what Simeon and
Anna knew,
Which is that some dreams we hold
close to our chest,
For ourselves to cherish and never
forget.

But other dreams must be spoken out
loud –
Dreams of justice and love and hope,
here and now.

So today my prayer is to know that
swell,
For there is good, good news
That we must tell.

Sermon **Those Who Dream – Will Not Keep Silent** Pastor Dan Stark

Song of Response *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight
For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King and peace to men on earth
O holy Child of Bethlehem descend to us we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell
O come to us abide with us our Lord Emmanuel**

Prayers of the People

Hear Our Prayers, O God...

For health & healing: *God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.* Ps. 147:3

We pray for:

- ~Families and friends in our community for whom this time of year is challenging.
 - ~Noelle Simons that her white blood cell count will get back to normal for her to continue treatments.
 - ~The Pfeifer family as Mark and Benjamin have COVID and Susan just recently contracted it as well. Benjamin seems to be bouncing back well but Mark not so much. Prayers for all of them as they care for each other.
 - ~Bill Kroening as he receives a series of 5 radiation treatments for Prostate cancer. He is blessed they caught it early.
 - ~Bob Kroening who recently has had setbacks of breathing problems and recurring cancer. Prayers as he has begun a regimen of 6 chemo drug treatments that will be spread out over winter.
 - ~Ian, Molly Pufall Brown's husband who will be having a bone marrow biopsy next Monday for something in his blood noticed in his annual physical blood work. Praying the outcome will be something simple and related to his allergies.
- From Molly Pufall Brown.

~Dave and Nancy Wareham's 90-year-old aunt who was at rehab for a post-operative stay and she contracted COVID and now has been hospitalized as her lungs are failing. Prayers for her and the family as it is a scary time for everyone.

From Dave & Nancy Wareham.

~Tom, brother-in-law of Doris and Paul Mayeshiba who is suffering from ALS. Extra prayers needed as they navigate the holidays.

~Matt, brother of Doris Mayeshiba for a speedy recovery from a recent spinal surgery on his neck.

~Dawn, daughter in-law of Laurel and wife of Brad Dayton, as she recovers from a heart attack and manages diabetes and dialysis 4 times per week. Continued prayers are requested.

~Nancy Charles' work facility, as it has been struck with a COVID outbreak.

~Tracy, daughter of Nancy Kaye, who is at home with Nancy awaiting liver and kidney transplants. She is doing well.

~Maureen, friend of Susie Klockow, who has breast cancer.

~Kathy, Ken Klockow's sister who has again been hospitalized for a serious infection.

~Good friend of Sue Klockow whose husband is at Froedert hospital and her father is at the VA hospital both have COVID pneumonia.

~Dan, friend of Molly Pufall Brown, who is very sick with an undiagnosed illness. Prayers also for his wife and 2 young children.

~Kelley, friend of Nancy Charles as she receives radiation treatment for breast cancer.

~Bernee, friend of Nancy Kaye who has end-stage lung cancer.

~Joe and Laurie, son in law and daughter of Jackie Struck. Prayers for continued healing for wounds as he goes to wound care weekly.

~Julene Flanagan's nephew, who is struggling with mental health issues.

~Julene Flanagan's family member who is struggling with health issues related to kidney disease.

Prayer Song

Away in a Manger

**Be near me Lord Jesus I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there**

Offering

Prayer of Dedication

Doxology

Tune: The First Noel

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

A-men.

Closing Song

Joy to the World

**Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing**

**Joy to the world the Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy**

**He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love**

Sending Blessing

*Go, tell it on the mountain.
Over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain.
That Jesus Christ is born!*

Postlude

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arr. Jeff Bennett

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If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email pastor@uccmke.org.
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We are currently worshipping online-only. Learn more here.

<https://www.uccmke.org/covid-advent>

You can make your offering to Christ Church at www.uccmke.org/donate or by mailing a check to Christ Church, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

